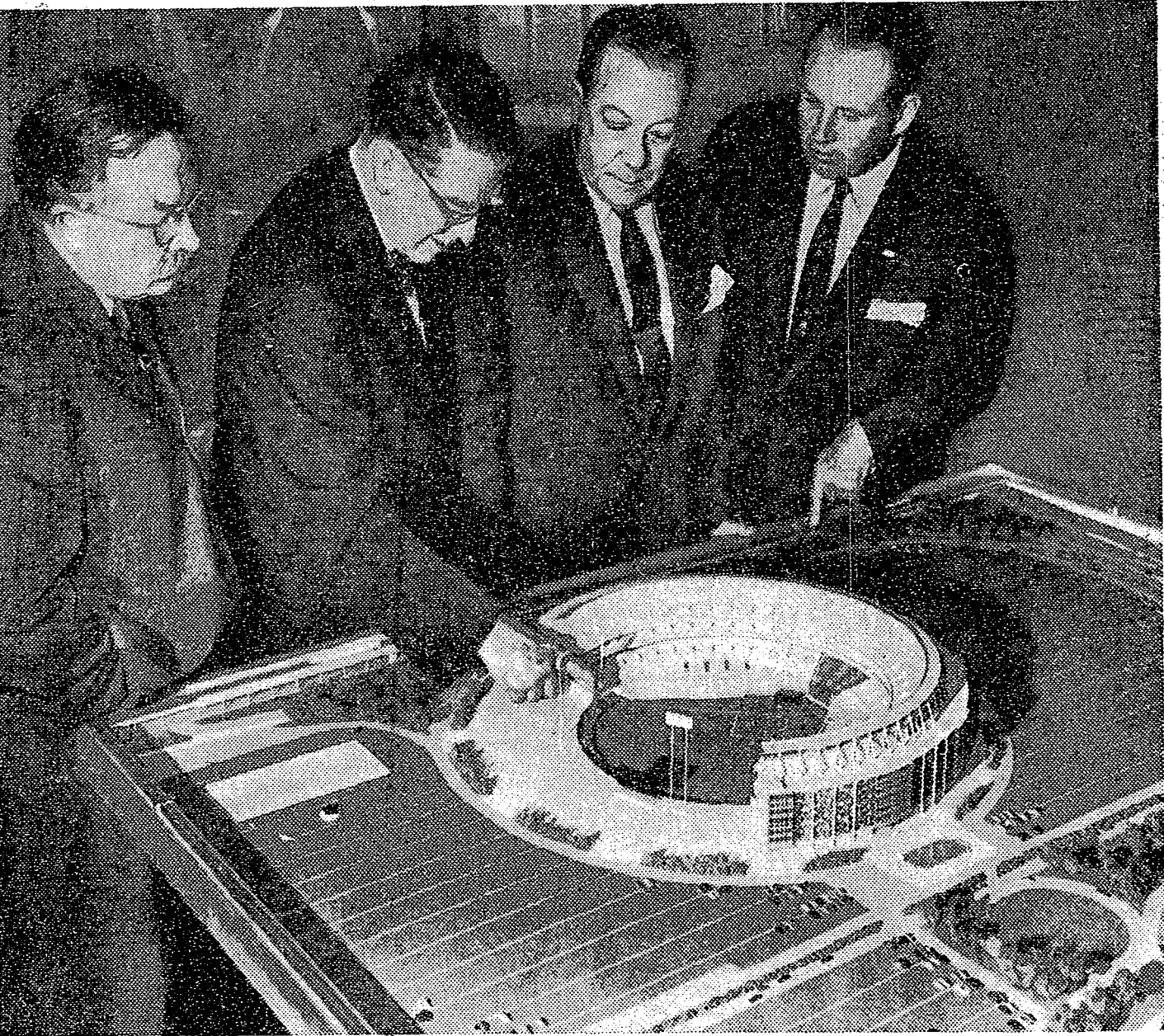


WAGNER PLEDGES QUEENS STADIUM WILL BE ERECTED

By CHARLES G. BENNETT
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ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2006)
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SPORTS STADIUM FOR NEW YORK: Branch Rickey, president of the Continental League, indicates features of the model of the stadium to rise in Flushing Meadow Park, Queens. From left at City Hall: Stuart Constable, Park Department; Mr. Rickey, Mayor Wagner, and William A. Shea, chairman of Mayor's Baseball Committee.

WAGNER PLEDGES
QUEENS STADIUM
WILL BE ERECTED

Unveils \$14,000 Model and
Says There Is No Retreat
—Total Cost \$15,000,000

BOARD APPROVAL IS DUE

Shea Expects Club to Play
There by '62 and Rickey
Sees Champion by '65

By CHARLES G. BENNETT
Mayor Wagner stood up before a City Hall sports meeting yesterday and drove his announcement right out of the park. New York, he said, definitely will have the long-talked-about \$15,000,000 sports stadium in Flushing Meadow Park, Queens.
“We are going to see this through to a successful conclusion,” he declared. “We couldn’t turn back now if we wanted to.”
The occasion was a news conference, attended by about 100 reporters and radio and television men, to witness the unveiling of a \$14,000 plastic model.
The stadium, to serve as the home of New York’s entry in the new Continental Baseball League, is expected to move a long step toward realization on April 28. On that day the Board of Estimate is slated to vote \$450,000 for final plans and specifications. Mayor Wagner made it clear that board approval was expected.
Movable Sections Planned
The scale model represents an open-end, three-tier, circular stadium. There would be movable sections so designed as to convert the stadium to football use.
At the outset, the structure would have 55,000 seats for baseball. With the movable sections, 65,000 persons could be accommodated for a football game.
The structure will be so built that a roof can be constructed later, if wanted, for \$3,500,000 more to provide for all-weather sport. Also, a \$5,000,000 section could be added at the stadium’s open end, increasing the capacity by about 25,000 seats.
The new stadium, with its parking field for 5,500 automobiles, will occupy a site at the north end of Flushing Meadow Park lying between Grand Central Parkway and 126th Street and extending from Roosevelt Avenue to Northern Boulevard.
Near Site of Fair
Just south of the arena tract, also in Flushing Meadow Park, lies the site of the 1964 World’s Fair.
At City Hall yesterday it also became known that the stadium project had cleared one more hurdle to official sanction. Donald J. Gormley, executive secretary of the Art Commission, announced that the commission had given preliminary approval Monday to the stadium design as submitted by the Park Department.
At yesterday’s meeting all was enthusiasm as a confident Mayor Wagner declared that “there is nothing in the way now for New York to have a second major-league team.”
William A. Shea, chairman of the Mayor’s Special Committee on Baseball, predicted that New York’s entry in the new Continental League would be playing
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WAGNER ASSERTS STADIUM IS SURE

Continued From Page 1, Col. 3

in 1961—probably at the Polo Grounds—and in 1962 in its new home stadium.

Branch Rickey, president of the Continental League, and former Postmaster General James A. Farley, a member of Mr. Shea's committee, also predicted a glowing future for the stadium.

Answering questions, Mr. Rickey conceded that the new circuit would have an uphill first two years competing with the American and National Leagues.

But he predicted that by its third year the new league would be in the World Series, and in its fourth year would provide the World Series with a champion.

Mr. Shea declined to be daunted by a question as to how New York could expect to nurture to maturity a new big-league team if it could not hold two established teams, the Giants and the Dodgers, which were here through 1957. The Giants went to San Francisco and the Dodgers to Los Angeles.

The year 1957, he said, was "a bad baseball year," in addition to which the size of crowds probably was reduced by the practice then of televising all New York home games, as well as those away.

"In the last three years we have learned a lot about baseball we didn't know before," Mr. Shea asserted. "If we knew in 1957 what we know now, the Dodgers and Giants would never have gotten out of town."

A sharp dissenting note to the City Hall optimism came not from the City Hall meeting but from the current issue of The Saturday Evening Post, published yesterday.

An article by Stanley Frank about George Weiss, entitled "Boss of the Yankees," quotes the general manager of New York's American League baseball team as saying of the new stadium:

"It's damned unfair for a stadium financed by public funds to operate against a private corporation that pays the city \$200,000 a year in taxes. Any one who says the park will pay for itself is crazy."

Called a White Elephant

"Every municipal stadium in the country is a white elephant. The bidding for big attractions is so intense that the plant has to be given away practically rent-free. The city won't lift a finger to get us the parking space we need desperately at the Yankee Stadium, but it's ready to pour money down the drain to accommodate the Continental League."

The financing plans call for the city to build the stadium, floating bonds outside its debt limit, and then to lease the structure to the baseball franchise owners.

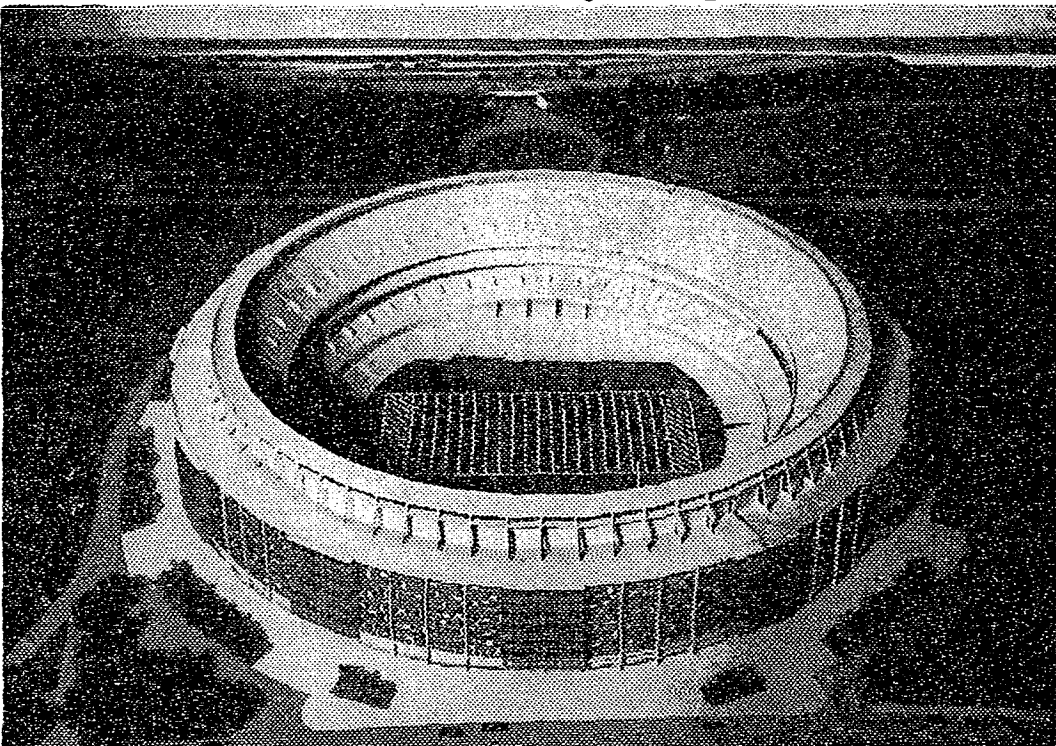
The venture will be self-liquidating, the Mayor predicted. One proposal has been to issue thirty-year bonds, which, it has been estimated, would be liquidated on the basis of \$900,000 a year in rentals.

Stuart Constable, executive officer of the Park Department, told the news conference that the Flushing Meadow site would be made easily accessible through the \$100,000,000 worth of new highways serving that area that are to be expedited for the 1964 World's Fair.

Praeger-Kavanagh-Waterbury are the engineer architects for the stadium project; Clarke & Hapuno are the landscape architects; the mechanical engineers are Sears & Kopf.

The franchises in the Continental League other than New York's belong to Minneapolis-St. Paul, Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, Denver, Toronto, Atlanta and Buffalo.

New Baseball Stadium Easily Adapted for Football



Plastic model of sports stadium for Flushing Meadow Park, Queens, as it would look for football game, with added \$5,000,000 section at the open end of stadium at the right.



The New York Times April 13, 1960
Stadium site (black area)